
Conversion Utility

Overview

The Conversion Utility transforms data from STADATA (an older STation DATAbase system) into the Meridian Administration Tools (MAT) system, from one PC database to the other. The process involves the following steps:

- 1 Start the Conversion Utility.
- 2 Identify a MAT site to receive the converted data.
- 3 Select the STADATA site for conversion.
- 4 Initiate the conversion process (and monitor progress if required).

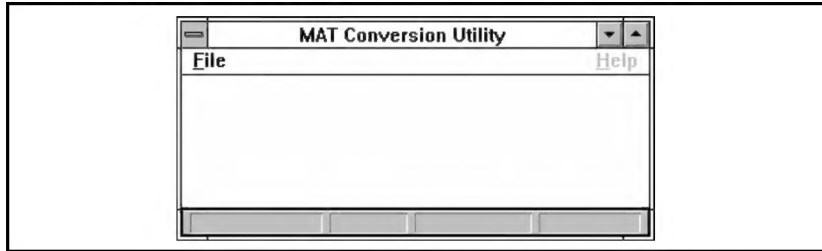
Conversion may be a lengthy process, but is only performed once.

Note: You may copy files from the machine which runs the STADATA program onto another machine to perform the STADATA conversion. In this case, you should copy all the site subdirectories and the file SDB.P from the directory above the sites.

Starting the Conversion Utility

When you start the Conversion utility, the MAT Conversion Utility application window opens.

Figure 34
Conversion Utility window



A menu item may be temporarily dimmed. This is true since the window initially contains no data in the workspace. The menu bar contains the **File** and **Help** drop-down menus:

File Menu

The File menu lets you access a MAT site and the STADATA site data that requires conversion.

New Site...: Lets you create a new MAT site to receive the converted STADATA site data.

Open Site...: Lets you access the data of an existing site.

Close Site: Closes the files of the current site.

Exit: Quits the Conversion Utility. The MAT site closes automatically.

Convert Menu

STADATA Site: This operation converts an existing STADATA site database into the Meridian Administration Tools system. The menu item is grayed until you choose or create a MAT site as a destination for the conversion.

MAT Site: This operation converts a MAT site created in a previous release to the format of the current release. This conversion changes file sizes, sort keys and layouts as required by the new MAT version. Conversion is automatically invoked upon installation of the new MAT software. In the case in which the installation is interrupted, or you are updating a network-based MAT system, you may manually convert the file structure using Convert MAT Site. Please read the *Release Notes* carefully and follow the update instructions to determine if this operation is required.

Rebuild File Menu

Some upissues of MAT will not require changes in layouts. For upgrades to these releases only a rebuild is necessary, which changes only file sizes and sort keys. On installation the appropriate Convert or Rebuild routine will be invoked automatically. If the process is interrupted, the user should manually invoke the appropriate procedure. Please see the release notes for further details.

All Sites: Invokes Rebuild for all sites in the MAT system.

Current Site: Invokes Rebuild only on the site that is currently open.

Help Menu

The Help menu provides on-line help for this utility.

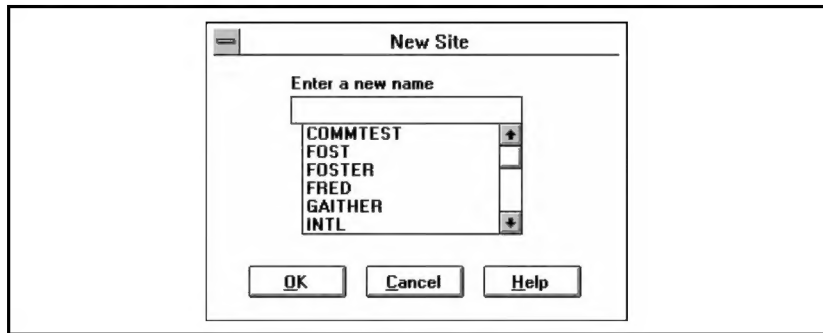
Select a MAT Site

On entering the Conversion utility, you must open a MAT Site to receive the converted data. The site may either be a New Site, if the MAT license provides a sufficient number of sites, or an existing MAT site.

New Site

Select New Site from the File menu to display the New Site dialog.

Figure 35
New Site dialog



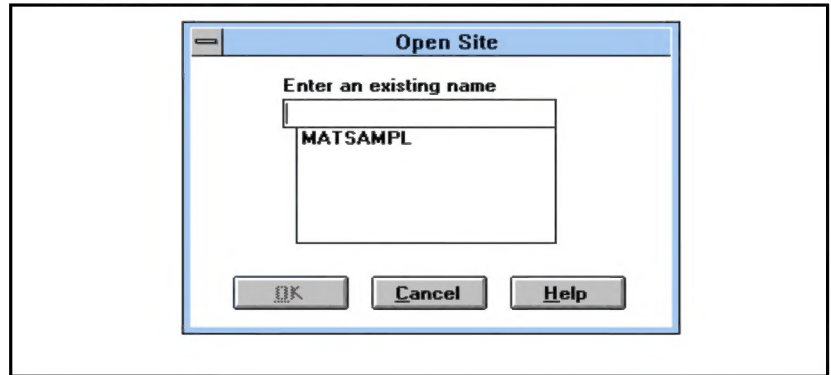
The dialog contains a text box and a list of all existing sites defined on your system. The **OK** button remains dimmed until the text box contains a valid site name. The text box accepts any alphanumeric characters or a selection from the list.

Choose **OK** to create the site and return to the Conversion Utility window for the newly created site. Only one site is open at any time, so opening another site closes the current site.

Open Site

Select Open Site from the File menu to display the Open Site dialog.

Figure 36
Open Site dialog



The dialog contains a text box with a list of all existing sites defined on your MAT system. The **OK** button remains dimmed until the text box contains a valid site name.

The text box accepts any alphanumeric characters or a selection from the list. The **OK** button remains dimmed until you enter a valid site name. Choose **OK** to open the site.

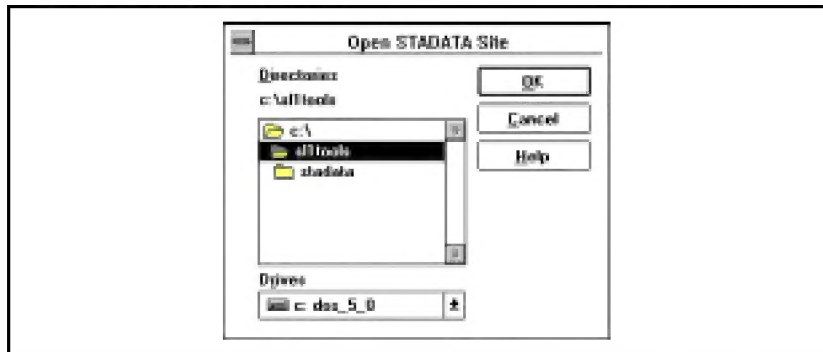
When a site is open, the work area contains a scrolling list of items (selectable in the View menu) in the current site database. Each line represents one database record.

When a list is displayed in the work area, the Edit menu lets you manipulate list items and the associated data. The functions available in the Edit menu act on selected list items.

Select the STADATA Site

Once you have chosen the MAT site, you may open the STADATA site to be converted. Choose **Convert-Stadata Site** to display the Open Stadata Site dialog.

Figure 37
Open Stadata Site dialog



The Windows file access dialog allows you to specify the required directory. You can select a disk drive in the Drives drop-down list box to display a list of directories available on the drive in the scrollable Directories list box. Clicking on a directory displays a list of subdirectories, if any. To select the STADATA site directory, click **OK** with the appropriate directory highlighted.

You are prompted in a Yes/No prompt message box to verify that the correct STADATA site been selected. Choose **Yes** to initiate the conversion process. Choose **No** to return to the Open STADATA Site dialog.

Monitor the Conversion Process

During the conversion process, the MAT Conversion Utility displays a status dialog that shows which site component or individual station is currently being converted. The **Cancel** button stops the conversion process immediately, leaving a partially converted site in the open MAT site.

Figure 38
Conversion Utility dialog

